

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 05443 292006Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 SAB-02 FAA-00 DOTE-00 /074 W  
-----008098 292019Z /75

P R 291940Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2961  
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
USCINCSO  
PANCANAL

UNCLAS PANAMA 5443

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PBOR, PINT, EAIRM MILI, PN, PQ, BL  
SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE ON HELICOPTER INCIDENT

REF: PANAMA 5371, PANAMA 5388

1. THIS MORNING'S "STAR AND HERALD" FRONT-PAGES ITEM BY LOCAL AP STRINGER HEADED "TORRIJOS WAS NOT ABOARD CHOPER "MISSED" BY JETS". STORY QUOTES THREE OFFICIAL SOURCES AS SAYING THAT THEY HAD BEEN TOLD BY "CREDIBLE AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES" THAT TORRIJOS WAS NOT ON THE HELICOPTER RETURNING PRESIDENT BANZER TO PANAMA CITY FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE MEETING IN SANTIAGO. NOTING THAT THE HELICOPTER PILOT HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE FAA RELEASE TAPE RECORDINGS OF AIR CONTROL CONVERSATIONS DURING THE INCIDENT TO GIVE THE TRUE STORY, REPORT QUOTES FAA SPOKESMAN AS SAYING THAT, WHILE THE FAA HAS NO PLANS TO MAKE THE TAPES PUBLIC, COPIES WERE GIVEN ON WEDNESDAY TO PANAMA'S DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR CIVIL AVIATION. SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID THAT THE FAA HAS "RECEIVED NO COMMENT FROM PANAMANIAN AVIATION OFFICIALS CONCERNING THE INCIDENT." ITEM WAS NOT CARRIED IN THE SPANISH-LANGUAGE PRESS.

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2. "CRITICA" HEADLINES "DEPARTMENT OF STATE CONFIRMS HELICOPTER INCIDENT", REFERRING TO AN INSIDE-PAGE EFE WASHINGTON-DATeline STORY THAT HAS DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN STATING THAT "TWO AMERICAN WARPLANES OVERFLEW THE HELICOPTER CARRYING TORRIJOS AND BANZER AT A DISTANCE OF THREE HUNDRED METERS." THE INCIDENT OCCURRED

CONTINUES THE STATEMENT, "BECAUSE THE HELICOPTER PILOT  
HAD NOT NOTIFIED THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES OF HIS INTENTION  
TO OVERFLY THE CANAL ZONE."

3. ONLY COMMENTARY IS CRITICA EDITORIAL DEFENDING ITS  
VERSION OF THE INCIDENT.

JORDEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, AIRCRAFT HARASSMENT, HELICOPTERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 29-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977PANAMA05443  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770273-0028  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PANAMA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t1977075/aaaaadke.tel  
**Line Count:** 70  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 5af6356a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 PANAMA 5371, 77 PANAMA 5388  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1837101  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MEDIA COVERAGE ON HELICOPTER INCIDENT  
**TAGS:** PBOR, PINT, EAIR, MILI, SOPN, PN, PQ, BL, (BANZER SUAREZ, HUGO), (TORRIJOS HERRERA, OMAR)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/5af6356a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009